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20,000 pounds of trash collected at October clean-up events

On two hot and sunny Saturdays in October, residents from the communities of East Los Angeles and Inglewood were out en masse collecting trash at two community clean-up events. Part of the County's stormwater pollution prevention pilot programs, the clean-up events

Servando Ornelas and Task Force members Diana Tarango and David Vela admire the piles of trash collected by Team #4.

were conducted to provide residents with the opportunity to take an active role in reducing pollution and help make a positive impact on their own neighborhoods.

Local residents heeded the County's call to action and came out in full force. Collectively, more than 450 volunteers participated in both events and enthusiastically collected nearly 20,000 pounds of trash from miles of neighborhood streets. In addition to collecting trash, the East LA volunteers also completed several beautification

projects at Eastman Avenue Elementary School, planting more than 100 plants and flowers and painting 10 storage units on the schoolcampus. In Inglewood, volunteers helped to beautify Edward Vincent, Jr. Park by collecting accumulating park trash and cleaning the park's storage facility area.

In recognition of their pollution prevention efforts, the County provided each clean-up volunteer with a Can It! campaign t-shirt, goodie bag, certificate of recognition and tip sheets on how to continue to help reduce local stormwater pollution.

"Our hope is that the volunteers will make the connection that they can help prevent pollution every day, not just during the designated clean-up events," said Kimberly Lyman, Management Specialist with the County of Los Angeles



KCAL TV anchor Dave Clark and Inglewood Councilman Curren Price join forces at the Inglewood clean-up event.



Volunteers help collect trash near Eastman Avenue Elementary School at the East LA clean-up event held October 11th.

Department of Public Works. "The events provided a springboard to get residents involved in the issue, now we hope that they will make an ongoing commitment to tackling the problem."

For more information about the clean-up events, please contact Tara August at (310) 248-6130. •

"The Inglewood event was a wonderful example of neighborhood unity. It was inspiring to see so many different groups making a difference in the community. Even the Inglewood Chief of Police swung a broom alongside other volunteers. It was truly a community collaboration."

— Teri Davis, Administrative Analyst City of Inglewood

"I was so pleased to see all of the volunteers that came out to the Union-Pacific clean-up event. If we all want to live, work and play in this community we have to come together to do the job to clean it up."

— Diana Tarango Dart Warehouse Corp.

Thank you to our clean-up partners

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"I served as a clean-up team leader at the Inglewood event because I felt that it was important to demonstrate to young people that if you want to make a difference, you have to help lead the charge."

— Sione Tuisa, Boy Scout Troop #285

YWCA

"After the event I took a few of the kids from the Belevedere Teen Scene after school program out for sodas and reminded them to put their cans in the trashcan. One of them quicky replied, 'After all the work I did at the clean-up event there's no way I'll ever put any litter on the ground!"

— Colleen MacKay, Recreation Services Supervisor County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation



Volunteers help clean up Edward Vincent Jr. Park at the Inglewood clean-up event on October 18th.

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County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works P.O. Box 1460 Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

